

CLAIMS:

1. An electroluminescent device comprising a pattern-wise ink-jet printed electrode for supplying charges to an electroluminescent layer of the electroluminescent device, the electrode comprising a metal or a metal alloy.

2. An electroluminescent device comprising a patterned electrode for supplying charges to an electroluminescent layer, the electrode comprising a metal or a metal alloy and having a transverse profile with a maximum thickness of at least 5 μm .

3. An electroluminescent device as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the metal or metal alloy has a melting point of 250 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ or less.

4. An electroluminescent device as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the electrode is an electrode for supplying electrons to the electroluminescent layer.

5. An electroluminescent device as claimed in claim 4 wherein the electrode has a work function of 4.5 eV or less.

6. An electroluminescent device as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 further comprising a relief pattern for patterning the pattern-wise ink-jet printed electrode.

7. An electroluminescent device as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 6, wherein the device is a matrix display device of the passive type comprising one or more electroluminescent layers sandwiched between row electrodes and column electrodes, independently addressable electroluminescent elements being formed at crossings of row and column electrodes, wherein the row electrodes are pattern-wise ink-jet printed electrodes comprising a metal or a metal alloy.

8. A battery-operated and/or hand-held electronic device, such as a mobile phone, provided with an electroluminescent device as claimed in any of the claims 1 to 7.

9. A method of manufacturing an electroluminescent device comprising a metal or metal alloy electrode provided in accordance with a desired pattern, said method comprising the deposition of a metal or metal alloy electrode in accordance with the desired pattern on a substrate surface by means of one or more deposition steps, said deposition including a deposition step of ink-jet printing in accordance with the desired pattern or a pattern complementary thereto.

10. A method of manufacturing an electroluminescent device comprising a metal or metal alloy electrode provided in accordance with a desired pattern as claimed in claim 9, said method comprising a deposition step of ink-jet printing molten metal or metal alloy on a surface in accordance with the desired pattern thus forming, upon cooling of the molten metal or metal alloy ink-jet printed onto the surface, the metal or metal alloy electrode.